

Listing of Claims

1. – 33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) Apparatus suitable for filtering emboli, comprising:

an elongate member;

a non-inflatable support hoop attached to the elongate member, the support hoop having an articulation region; and

a blood permeable sac affixed to the support hoop, the support hoop forming a distally facing mouth of the blood permeable sac.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising a guidewire slideably attached to the elongate member.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the blood permeable sac comprises a biocompatible material.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the support hoop comprises a super-elastic material.

38. (Previously Presented) Apparatus suitable for filtering emboli, comprising:

an elongate member;

a support hoop attached to the elongate member;

a blood permeable sac affixed to the support hoop, the support hoop forming a distally-facing mouth of the blood permeable sac; and

a delivery sheath having a proximally facing cavity for accepting the support hoop.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the support hoop further comprises an articulation region.

40. (Previously Presented) A method of filtering emboli, comprising:

providing a guidewire;

providing a blood permeable sac having a distally facing mouth slideably disposed on the guidewire, and further having an expanded position and a contracted position;

providing a delivery sheath having a proximally facing cavity for accepting the mouth of the blood permeable sac;

positioning the mouth of the blood permeable sac within the delivery sheath such that the blood permeable sac is in the contracted position;

advancing the guidewire to a desired location within a patient's vessel;

advancing the blood permeable sac and the delivery sheath along the guidewire;

and

deploying the blood permeable sac from the delivery sheath so that the sac expands to the expanded position.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of providing a blood permeable sac having a distally facing mouth further includes the step of providing a support hoop attached to the distally facing mouth.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the step of providing a support hoop further includes the step of providing an articulation region on the support hoop.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of retracting the blood permeable sac into the delivery sheath and folding the support hoop at the articulation region to close the blood permeable sac.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of deploying the blood permeable sac from the delivery sheath further comprises the step of advancing the delivery sheath distally from the blood permeable sac.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of deploying the blood permeable sac from the delivery sheath further comprises the step of advancing the blood permeable sac proximally from the delivery sheath.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of retracting the blood permeable sac into the delivery sheath.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the step of retracting the blood permeable shaft further comprises the step of advancing the delivery sheath over the mouth of the blood permeable sac to return the blood permeable sac to the contracted position.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the step of retracting the blood permeable sac further comprises the step of advancing the mouth of the blood permeable sac into the delivery sheath to return the blood permeable sac to the contracted position.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of removing the guidewire, delivery sheath and blood permeable sac from the patient's vessel.